





Happy

Birthday



■ by LAURA NEIL

min Moor, Cornwall, blocked by five inches of snow.

Sgt Alan Mobbs said the operation would contin-ue through the night as the temperature plunged to -2C. He pledged: "We will check

Ps' fury as computer faults hit the needy

RESCUERS were last night trying to reach more than 1,000 people stranded in 500 vehicles tranged by spow

rapped by snow. Police said about 150 –

including three coach-loads of children – had been rescued from the A30 on Bod-

■ by MACER HALL, Political Editor

A MELTDOWN in the Whitehall computer

A MELIDUMN in the Whitehall computer system was blamed last night for leaving thousands of jobseekers helpless. More than a million calls to a benefits helpline for the jobless went unanswered because of a faulty computer phone system.

Angry unions claimed civil service job cuts were hitting needy claimants, but Downing Street blamed "teething troubles" for the night-mare that hit one in three callers to the Jobcentre Plus automated phoneline. But MPs were furious about yet more errors with computers installed by US technology giant Electronic Data Systems (EDS). attack

A BRITISH football fan has died after being knifed in Amsterdam. A friend he was with was injured in the attack

with was injured in the attack.
It's believed the men were in Holland to see Middlesbrough play AZ Alkmaar in the Uefa cup.
Police are still hunting the killer.
The dead fan has not been named.

been named.
Boro fanzine editor
Rob Nichols said:
"Like all Boro fans
I'm in shock."



WARNING: David Laws

David Laws said: "These new figures show there is yet another welfare reform disaster emerging in Labour's third term." Earlier this week EDS paid the Inland Revenue £71 million following a row over computer faults with



REFORM: Gordon Brown

the tax credit system. And the tax credit system. And Mark Serwotka, general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union, said: "We think this is an inevitable conse-quence of Gordon Brown's efficiency drive."

macor hall@dailystarco.uk

PM faces fags fight

ANGRY Labour MPs are plotting to force Tony Blair to introduce a total ban on smoking in public places. Many backbenchers are furious the Government allowed the habit to continue in pubs that don't serve food and in private clubs. Now they're planning a massive rebellion when the smoking proposals come before the Commons.

Nearly 60 MPs have signed a Commons motion calling for a total ban.

total ban.

One Labour insider said last night: "There is still time to win the argument."

TTO DAILY PLA

FRIDAY, NOV 25

SATURDAY LOTTO **NOVEMBER 19** 909332

One ticket won the £4.5m jackpot 10, 23, 33, 41, 45, 47 TBalt 1, 3, 6, 18, 29 (Tb 9) tra winners of £3.2m jackpot 14 TBalt 1, 25 (Tb 9)

1 11 14 15 18 19 27 One ticket matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 jackpo

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 23 Mo winner of estimated £2.7million Lotto jackpot. Extra: 3, 6, 11, 34, 45, 46 TBall: 1, 7, 13, 22, 26 (Tb 8)

FRIDAY, NOV 25

1, 6, 27, 39, 47 Lucky Star Numbers 1, 6

Thought for the day...

INSIDE TODAY

| ******************* | | |
|---------------------|-------|--|
| GOSS | 10-11 | |
| DOMINIK | 13 | |
| HOT | 18-19 | |
| FORUM | 24 | |
| TELLY / 2 / 2 / 8 | 8 30 | |
| HOLIDAYS FINE CO | 38-39 | |
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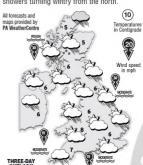
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mail us at: news@dailystar.c Or fax us on: 020 8612 796

INFO S

TODAY: Most of England and Wales will be dry and sunny. Eastern Scotland will be cloudy with showers. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be brighter with blustery showers.

OUTLOOK: Chilly over the weekend with showers for coastal regions and rain in the North East. Becoming colder on Monday with showers turning wintry from the north.



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Chaos

The Texas-based firm has also been at the centre of computer chaos at the Inland Revenue and the

Inland Revenue and the Child Support Agency
Tory Shadow Work And Pensions Minister Tim
Boswell, attacked the "chaos and confusion". He said: "It's no good replacing the old system with a new computerised system that isn't working properly.

properly. "Ministers have a duty to

maintain a high level of service that ensures people receive the benefits they are entitled to."

Liberal Democrat work and pensions spokesman







Ant and Dec confess: We do the show drunk

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WHAT APOTOP

WHAT APOTOP

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MINE'S A DOUBLE ACT: Ant and Dec looking slightly squiffy on show

I'M A Celebrity hosts Ant and The A Colebrity nosts Ant and Dec admit they often present the show while still drunk from the night before.

The TV double act – full names Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly – but the better first action of the involvent

Ann MCTATUMI and Decian Donnelly— have hosted five series of the jungle reality show Down Under. The Geordie duo, both 30, are currently watching Carol Thatcher, 52, David Dickinson, 64, Jenny Frost, 27, and their pals rough it in the rainforest.

Beers

But they admit they sometimes can't resist the temptations of the hotel bar. Dec explained: "There have been a few episodes of I'm A Celebrity where we've definitely still been drunk.
"It's working at such odd times. We might get up at midnight, work through the night and then go live on telly at six." So there have been a couple of nights where we've had a few too many

EXCLUSIVE

in Australia
beers." Ant added: "You never get used to going to bed at seven o'clock. So you say. 'Let's just have a night on the beer."
"And the next day you're like, 'Ah, I really wish I hadn't done that now."
Meanwhile, single Dec — who flirted with former Neighbours star Kimberley Davies, 32, during her Bushtucker Trial reckons his pal's engagement to make-up artist Lisa Armstrong, 29, means horny female fans no longer offer them threesomes.
He said: "It just doesn't happen any more. We used to get it a little when we were doing our music but Ant got engaged and went and spoiled it."
Speaking to FHM magazine, Ant replied: "Sorry about that mate!"

Jungle grapevine

burst into tears
after her "Rocky
Horror" trial and
didn't get back to the
camp for two hours.
She faced snakes, spiders, rats and crocs
before breaking down.

SHEREE later said she didn't want to become this year's Natalie Appleton. She said: "If you can't do a trial then the viewers will pick on you again and again."

GAL pals Carol and Jilly sneaked off for a bitch about David. Jilly said: "He is not pulling



CROC HELL: Sheree weeps

his weight. Let's make him do the dishes."



eviction is tomorrow

JIMMY once bought a Jimmy Osmond mask on eBay. He said: "It's weird having to buy your own stuff back."

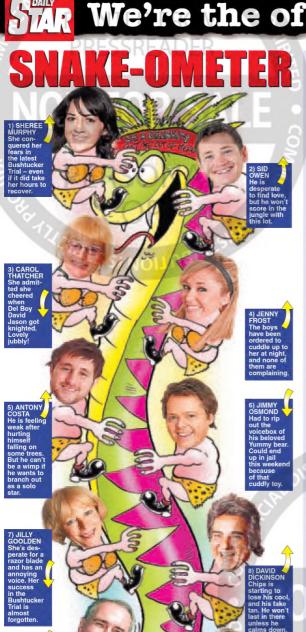
THE stars have been making daft demands. Sid has been begging for the X Factor results, Jilly wants a loo brush.

SEXY Jenny has two pairs of Bridget Jones-style big knickers so she doesn't get ants in her pants.



e're the official paper for







WHAT A LAUGH: The group just can't stop giggling



MONKEY BUSINESS: David does an animal impersonation as Jenny gets into dancing mode



HORNY: Sid gets ready to charge the celebs

Crazy gang lose the plot



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DEVASTATED: Calum, centre, with Best's dad Dickie, front, and agent Phil Hughes, right

MILLIONS of fans across the world were mourning football genius George Best last night.

Best last night.

The sporting legend lost his fight for life after spending his final hours listening to family and friends reliving their golden

and friends reliving their golden times together.

Today, players and fans at every Premiership and Football League match will stand for a minute's silence in tribute to Bestie, 59.

The star hailed by many as the greatest player of all time will be buried next Friday in his native Belfast in the family plot beside his mother Ann.

Shrine

Fans had begun gathering outside London's private Cromwell Hospital from dawn, creating a shrine of flowers and football shirts.

Best's fighting spirit had seen him battle on through the night, but his frail body finally succumbed to multiple organ failure at 12.55pm.

Minutes later, his devastated son Calum emerged with the rest of the family to announce his dad had died. Calum, who had stayed up all night with Best's 87-year-old dad Dickie and the star's brother and sisters, fought back tears as he said: "Not only have I lost my dad but we've all lost a wonderful man." lost a wonderful man."

Calum, 24, was visibly touched as a

by GARY NICKS and IAIN BURCHELL

stranger handed him a bunch of roses. He placed them on the fast-growing shrine where last night fans were lighting candles for their idol. More tributes were left at Man-chester United's Old Trafford chester ground.

chester United's Old Trafford ground.

Best's ex-United team-mate Denis Law, 65, told how the dying Best's family and friends whispered words of comfort to him.

"The whole family were there and have not been to bed since yesterday." he said. "They were up through the night."

Best's sister Barbara, 53, read out a family statement thanking the "thousands and thousands" of people who sent cards and e-mails.

She praised Professor Roger Williams, 74, who carried out a life-saving liver transplant three years ago on Best, a long-term alcoholic. The star's agent and long-time friend Phil Hughes, 45, broke down in tears as he said: "He has gone somewhere now where no one can hurt him any more. He is safe now."

Moments after news of Best's death flashed around the world, trib-Moments after news of Best's death flashed around the world, trib-

utes began pouring in.
England captain David Beckham,
30, said: "As a Manchester United
fan I always saw George Best as a
football legend.
"It was a proud moment for me

had agent Prini Hugnes, right
when I wore the same No7 shirt as
him. He is one of the greatest players to have ever graced the game."
Best's second wife, Alex, 33, said
she would always miss the man she
called the love of her life.
Alex – who had not visited Best on
his death bed because she felt it
would upset his family following
their bitter divorce – said: "George
was a unique and talented person
who made a lot of people very happy.
"I will always miss him."
Another ex-team-mate, Sir Bobby
Charlton, 68, said: "Anyone that witnessed what George could do on the
pitch wished they could do the same.

Memories

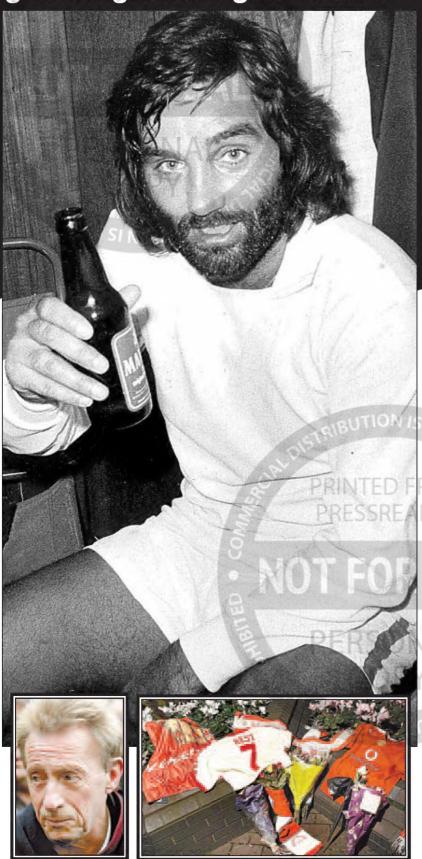
'He made an immense contribu-"He made an immense contribu-tion to the game, and enriched the lives of everyone that saw him play." Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, 63, said: "He has left us with a million memories, all of them good ones." Gordon Taylor, head of the Profes-sional Footballers' Association, called Best "a footballing pop star" during the heady era of the Beatles. Best was admitted to hospital on October 1 suffering from a flu-like infection.

infection. He deteriorated rapidly when he

He deteriorated rapidly when he developed a kidney infection, but he then rallied and was thought to be improving until a week ago when he suffered a severe setback.

Garynicks@dailystar.co.uk

game's greatest genius loses his brave battle for life



GRIEVING: Pal Denis Law yesterday and some of the tributes left outside the hospital

In his own words... making of a legend

GRIEVING fans were yesterday sharing memories of Bestie's briliance on the pitch – and his partying skills off it. Favourite tales included how Chelsea Fire Brigade got so used to picking Bestie out of the gutter they gave him a permanent bed at their King's Road station.

Here are quotes from the man himself that sum up why he will never be forgotten...



SHRINE: Fans' tributes at Old Trafford

with Miss World, bubbly and thousands in cash, and asked: "George, where did it all go wrong?"

"I was in for 10 hours and had 40 pints, beating my previous record by 20 minutes." On a transfusion.

"He cannot kick with his left foot, he cannot head a ball, cannot tackle and he doesn't score many goals. Apart from that he's all right." On David Beckham.

"Pele called me the greatest foot-

David Becknam.

"Pele called me the greatest footballer in the world. That is the ultimate salute to my life."

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STAR NEWS



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WINNERS! BRITAIN'S LOWEST PRICED SUPERMARKET AWARD



Kids get 'gangsta' lessons

TEACHERS are swapping traditional British nursery rhymes for US rap to teach children to read and write. They recken it makes learning easier for youngsters – despite the fact that many rap lyrics glorify violence and gun crime.

Teachers reckon nursery rhymes such as London Bridge Is Falling Down and Baa Baa Black Sheep mean little to children these days.

Instead, they get a sense of rhythm and rhyme from television, video games and modern music.

nd modern music. So rapping has now been added to the

Little Jack Horner, Sat in a corner,

Ring a ring o' roses, The hood is full of hos-es,

I shoot you! I shoot you! You all fall down.

Smoking his pipe of crack, He stuck in a rock, And took a deep suck,

Readin', ritin'

and rappin'...

And said, "What a good gangsta is I"

■ by JAMES WICKHAM

traditional "three Rs" of reading, writing and arithmetic at Hatfield Peverel Infants' School, near Chelmsford, Essex, in a trial project.

The findings will be presented at a worldwide international education conference in Florida next year.

School head Marrie Webster said: "It has been interesting to see how those traditional nursery rhymes, which have been passed down for hundreds of years, seem to have become less common in the last two or three decades.

"Children today are so much quicker at dealing with information in a visual way and we were interested in the role that rhyme and rhythm plays in learning."

Church

Local church groups say they are also learning from rappers.
Sarah Openshaw, of the Youth Alpha Christian Group in Kelvedon, Essex, said it helped them get their message across.
She said: "We belong to a traditional church, so using rap music is not something most people would expect. But it works – and we plan more Christian raps."
Here, the Daily Star's resident rapper Jon "Badass" Lockett offers some nursery rhyme raps.

some nursery rhyme raps

Star-ring roles X FACTOR'S Journey South boys are catching up on the best news of the day – in the Daily Star. Hunky Andy Pemberton, 29, left, and his brother Carl, 24, were seen reading their favourite paper on the way to the ITV1 studios for last-minute rehearsals. The boys are down to the last six on the telly contest and are due to perform live again tonight. They hope they'll soon be in the headlines themselves ... as victors.

I'VE ONLY

CLUSIVE ■ by MARK JEFFERIES

LOUIS Walsh says he is only coming back to X Factor to help Shayne Ward to victory. The Irish judge has made a dra-matic U-turn and will be back in the

Hurt

Walsh said: "The final Stmon rubbishing my name as a manager. I'm a better manager, a better music person than he ever will be.
"Tve had 27 number ones so I must be doing something right. I truly promise this isn't a scam. I wish it was because then I wouldn't have been so hurt this week.
"The water thing was bad enough but I was genuinely hurt on Monday."
Despite complaining, Louis then started another potential row with Cowell. He told GMTV: "I'm in the music business and Sharon is sort of the most powerful woman in rock.
"But I really don't know."

woman in rock.

"But I really don't know
what business Simon's in
. . . oh I do, he's in the
Simon Cowell business."

mark.jefferies@dailystar.co.uk

LASS LAUGH: Crazy Chico managed to









SHAYNE Ward and Chico Slimani have a new fight on their hands – to ward off lusty females.

The two lads are currently locked in a battle to win a recording contract on The X Factor.

But though they are rarely allowed out in public because of rehearsals, girls are still finding ways to make a move on them.

Shayne was collared while out promoting the show this week.

A source said: "A girl came up to him who has modelled for FHM.

"She had barely said two words to him when she handed him a

■ by MARK JEFFERIES

polaroid. It was a picture of herself in a raunchy pose in underwear and it said 'Call me' with her number underneath."

Private

Chico, 34, did a photoshoot with a sexy model who ended up falling for him. Our source added: "She made it clear she'd like to meet up with him somewhere a little bit more private."

win over a sexy model at X Factor

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A GLASS of water could be hurtling its way towards Ozzy Osbourne's head from

Osbourne's nead from his feisty wife Sharon Osbourne, 53, after he slated her show The X

Factor:
Ozzy, 57, dubbed the
Prince of Darkness, told
Virgin Radio DJ Ben
Jones: "I don't like these
shows. There must be
thousands of people to
be discovered but why
do they need a show
like this to find them?"
You tell 'em Ozzy.

OUICKIE..

PALS of sexy Charlize
Theron, 30, say she's
trying to throw people
off the scent as far as
her marriage to hunky
Stuart Townsend is
concerned.
The Oscar winner, 30,
claimed, rather
bizarrely, that she'd wed
Irishman Townsend, 33,
only when gay marriage
was legalised.
But a source told us
that's far from the
truth, saying: "They'll
marry near Dublin next
summer."

With CHARLI MORGAN, LEIGH PURVES and AMY WATTS



ERS IN A TAX THEN SHE'S DUM

HEY, Jude! You've been caught on the pull again ...

... And behaving like a cad to the new babe, to boot.

babe, to boot.
Yes, folks, womaniser Jude Law was supposed to be babysitting lover Sienna Miller's pooches while she was promoting Casanova in New York.
But he'll be sharing the doghouse with pets Porgy and Bess when she discovers he's been romancing a mystery beauty. The 32-year-old actor homed in on the pretty brunette at London's Groucho Club and later climbed in a taxi with her.
When he thought he'd been spotted, he opened the door and PUSHED her OUT!
But it was too late to save his blushes.

Fling

Our curtain-twitcher revealed: "Jude saw the girl drinking with pais at the club and marched straight over to her when her friends left.

"They seemed to hit it off straight away and spent the evening propping up the bar together.

"By the time they'd worked their way through a bottle of champagne and a few cocktalls, they were giggling like kids. Then Jude was being a gent, opening doors and helping her on with her coat."

The chivalry didn't last.

Our shocked witness explained: "They were giggling and cuddling each other in the back of a taxl. But Jude's romantic mood changed when he saw snappers crowding around it.

"He opened the door and literally pushed her out of the cab before driving off."

Jude's latest fall from grace comes just after a visit to Siemna, 23, in the Big Apple,She'd hoped the trip would help them



UP CLOSE: Jude and mystery babe

patch things up after Jude's fling with a nanny, her whirl with Daniel Craig, 38, and Jude's dalliances with ex-wife Sadie Frost, 37, and stunner Salma Hayek, 39.

But at least she's got few illusions left. She recently said: "Having done the Casanova film, everyone thinks I'm an expert on love. And I'm hopeless." "I'd love one day to get married and have children but I'm not quite ready yet." Seems Jude's not anyway ...

USH HUSH

WHICH showbiz couple have agreed to an open relationship despite their cosy image? Apparently telong-suffering lady reluctantly accepted her husband's affairs after he agreed to pay her a handsome salary if she didn't leave him. He is now making hay while the sun shines with several low-rent mistresses.

Charming.

IN London: Ruby Wax chatting up a waiter at the Oxo Tower,
Orlaith McAllister doing tequila
slammers at Penthouse; Craig David
buying Khox games at a grins store. In
Irmingham: Chef James Martin downing Piat d'or with Strictly Come
Dancing partner Camilla
Dallerup at the BBC Good
Food Show,

. .

SUTTOWNS &

JENINON IS 570

Robbie's such a cheeky boy

ROBBIE Williams's search for the perfect woman seems to have taken a swerve in the direction of Cheeky Girl Gabrielle Irimia.

The 31-year-old star has apparently had a long-standing fascination with the Transylvanian, er, singer.

And he interrupted a TOTP performance to announce that he was a "cheeky boy" after

seeing Gabrielle and sister
Monica, both 23, perform.
When the Robster bumped into Gabrielle at an ITV1 party last month, sparks flew and numbers were exchanged.
A source told us: "Robbie kept telling Gaby that she's sexy and beautiful."

beautiful.
"Then he asked how she kept her figure and she explained she had a gym and a swimming

pool at her pad in Regent's Park. She invited him to come for a workout with her, so Robbie asked Gabrielle for her address.

Smitten

"Gabrielle has vowed not to date anyone until she has seen Robbie.
"She is really smitten and would love to see what could happen between them. She

remembers having a **Take That** poster book back in Transylvania.
"It's incredibly exciting that she's even met him, and now he's asked her out."
We're not sure what we're more jealous about... the fact she seems to have pulled Robbie or her pimpy London flat.
See kids, bad reality show auditions DO pay.



Dick, Dom tat attack

Wednesday

GRUESOME twosome Dick and Dom

GRUESOME twosome Dick and Dom have launched a scathing attack on the Beeb for forcing them to present flop TV quiz Ask The Family.

The infantile duo, known as Richard McCourt, 29, and Dominic Wood, 27, by their munmies, fear it has damaged the careers they believe they have.

The poor man's Ant and Dec told DJ James O'Brien on LBC 97.3 FM: "It was good experience – but it was the biggest load of tat we've ever done.

"It was totally the wrong vehicle for us and really badly done."

Which is probably why Auntie thought you'd be ideal for the job...

WALL STREET

fallen foul of lover
L'Wren Scott, 38.

All because he
offered supermodel
Glsele Bundchen a
shoulder to cry on
after she split from
Leonardo DiCaprio, 31.
Mick, 62, took
Gisele, 25, to
Manhattan hot-spot
The Bite Cheese for The Big Cheese for "fatherly advice". A source said: "It was all innocent." Honest.

OUICKIE..

GEEKY love-god Adam Brody is set to play Johnny Depp's brother in American

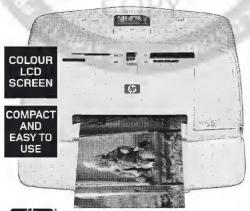
brother in American Civil war Saga Crimson Harvest.
The OC star, 26, was apparently picked because, while he shares the dark looks of Depp, 42, "he has the insecurity to play an overshadowed younger sibling." Whatever... with that eye-candy who cares?

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News in brief

REAL-LIFE raiders have wreaked havoc on the set of the new Pirates Of The Caribbean movie on Grand Bahama island.

Thieves nicked cash and equipment worth £12,000 and filming has been halted.
Big stars Johnny Depp, 42, Keira Knightley, 20, and Orlando Bloom, 28, are luckier than minor players who have had their wages stolen.



HOLD-UP: Orlando

Gipsies miss out

A COUNCIL is being forced to spend £50,000 building a gipsy camp for a group they can't even find.

A court ordered it to find alternative accommodation for the travellers after refusing planning permission for a site on privately-owned land. West Wiltshire District Council has earmarked a plot in the village of Corsley Heath, but a spokesman admitted: "We're not entirely sure where they are now. They may not even be in west Wiltshire. "But we have to do something because of the court order."



Flash in the dark

NEW speed guns are being used to trap drivers who break the limit in the dark.

The cameras are hand-held in vehicles parked in well-lit areas. They use a "soft flash" which police say should not be a hazard.

Cumbria Police are pilloting the scheme after finding that accidents rose by a third in winter in the hours from 7am to 9am and 4pm to 7pm.

But campaigner Paul Smith, of Safe Speed, insisted: "Even If the driver isn't dazzled by the flash, the shock value could distract them from the road."

RAPPERS Goldie Lookin'

Chain have snubbed Crazy Chick Charlotte Church. They now fancy her fellow Welsh singer Katherine Jenkins, 23, instead.

The eight comedy rappers say Charlotte, 19, is past her best.

est. GLC member Adam Hussein said: "Churchy likes rugby players so there's no chance. "But if Katherine likes boy bands then there's hope."



Jilted lover cut up

JILTED Gary Piper hid under his ex-girlfriend's bed then leapt out wielding a carving knife as she began having sex with one of his friends. Stewart Hercock was cut on the hand as Piper brandished the knife. Southampton Crown Court heard that months earlier girlfriend Caroline Ellis had ended her five-year relationship with 37-year-old Piper.

Asked what he intended doing with the knife, Piper replied: "Stick it in his body as many times as I could." Piper, of Liskeard, Cornwall, was Jalled for two years for wounding.



PUBALGIA

dominikdiamond@btconnect.com

JENTYON IS 574

after all.
Footballers score important goals that fill our hearts with joy, but they do tend to spoil that when they then go out and behave like Neanderthals. Which makes it all the more ironic that the biggest hero to emerge from the Bushtucker Trials this series is a footballer's wife. Sheree Murphy's attempt at The Rocky Horror Show took

Murphy's attempt at The Rocky Horror Show took balls the size of Birmingham. I don't mind spiders, but I would NEVER stick my head in a box full of them. Sheree did. And she's ter-rified of every single thing in the world heights, insects, mam-mals and miscellaneous, just in case anything's just in case anything's been missed out.

The poor thing was shaking like a wet pooch in a hailstorm. But she



I'm assuming it's because she was terrified, although the fact is that her face appears to be so glacial she only has one expression. I think she just may have had a tiny injection of flesh into all that better.

that botox.
Then we have Elaine
Lordan, who didn't even
make it as far as a
Bushtucker Trial before

pulling out.
As far as displays of for-

As far as displays of for-titude go, she makes the French army look like Chopper Harris. Elaine is now asking for £100,000 to tell the story of what happened when she went on I'm A Celebrity. But I can tell you that for the money you've just spent on this paper: Walked across a bridge, freaked out, fainted at the feet of Jimmy Osmond. Hardly War And Peace, is it?

THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TO THE PERSON NA

A REPORT out yesterday claimed that we will spend £13billion on credit cards this Christmas. But that will drop to £5bn if Celtic decide not to stump up for Roy Keane's wages.



T'S said that a place on I'm A Celebrity is one of the most sought-after gigs in TV land just now, because of the fame and fortune it affords



N Thursday morning, the news spread like wildfire - Take That were about to hold a press conference promising fans "very exciting news".

news".

What could it be? A mass suicide pact? An explanation as to why Jason

Orange has aged so badly? No. They're getting together to tour again. Oh joy! Actually, I have no problem with Take That re-forming.

But if it gives East 17 any ideas, I will hunt them down with all the skill and fury of a mountain lion.

NGLAND'S rugby hero Jonny Wilk-inson is injured again. No laughing matter, you might think. And nor is the nature of the complaint something called a "sportsman's hernia". I heard this

JUST STICK IT UP

phrase for the first time recently on Five's American Football coverage. The quarterback from the Philadelphia Eagles had one. And, like everything else from America, it's now come over here. For example, we can to longer have "a cold day with a temperature of minus 1". No. We have: "It's minus 1, but with the wind chill factor it will be minus 437."

Years ago, the wind just blew in Britain. Now it chills. All because some American phoned up a weatherman one day and said: "It feels a lot colder than minus 1 today." So they had to invent something else.

I suspect a similar thing has happened

with the "sportsman's hernia". This American footballer has had a hernia.

Not wanting to admit the wall of his abdomen is drooping into his scrotal sack like any Tom, Dick or Harry, he has to say it's special. It's a sportsman's hernia. It's far more of a hernia than you or I get. They've even given it its own Latin name: Athletic pubalgia. So I'm staking a claim for us non-athletic punters to be able to use these fancy terms, too. Phone up work on Monday and say you can't come in because you've got Athletic pubalgia. It'll be the easiest skive you've ever had. After all, no one will want to come round and check up on THAT.

Let Gordon

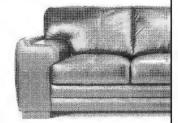
wrong.

How insulting is that? It's effectively saying: "You're thick and you can't add up." It's the kind of public dissing that, if they were rap artists instead of politicians,

ould result in Lord rner driving by own's crib and acking the entire p of an Uzi into him tile playing loud

síc. | LOUIS Walsh quits | X Factor in a huff. non Cowell begs n to come back.

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CAN turn Waynetta into



EXPERTS have come up with a magic formula that proves beer goggles

really do exist.

We've all long suspected that a few drinks can make even the ugliest of people look like

the ughest of people foot the supermodels.

Now researchers at Manchester University say they've proved it's all true. And they've worked out the formula that's led to some of the most regrettable one-night stands across the country.

Light

Alcohol plays the key role – upping your intake changes the beer goggle effect from barely registering to off the scale. But it's not the only factor that counts. The level of light in the pub or club, the drinker's own

■ by TOM SAVAGE

eyesight, the smokiness of the

eyesight, the smokiness of the room and the distance between two people all add to the effect. Nathan Efron, Professor of Clinical Optometry at the University of Manchester, said: "The beer goggle effect isn't sole-ly dependent on how much alco-

hol a person consumes. There are other influencing factors.
"For instance, a person with poor vision in a very smoky bar will experience a beer goggle effect close to someone who has had eight pints in a well-lit room."

The formula, given below, can be used to work out a final beer goggles score. Less than one

 $(A_n)^2 \times \delta(S+1)$

SUM FIGURE: The formula giving a beer goggle rating

means there is no beer goggle effect – an ugly person looks ugly. A score of one to 50 means there's a slight effect, making a minger slightly less "visually offensive".

offensive". A score of 51 to 100 gives moderate beer goggles. An unappealing person becomes attractive.

And a score of more than 100 gives you serious beer goggles, enough to turn Waynetta Slob into gorgeous Kelly Brook, 26.

Boozing

The research was commissioned by top eyecare firm Bausch & Lomb PureVision after a survey of more than 1,000 SpeedDater members.

a survey of more than 1,000 SpeedDater members.
To avoid beer goggles, SpeedDater recommends sticking to a well-lit room, keeping a distance of 3f and boozing in moderation.

But we reckon it's too late for some celebs, who may well have had beer goggles on when searching for a partner.
How else could you explain how Billie Piper, 23, ended up with Chris Evans, 39; Rod Stewart, 60, bagged Penny Lancaster, 34; Liv Tyler, 28, teamed up with Royston Langdon, 32; or Michael Winner, 69, got anyone?

Tom.savege@dailystar.co.uk



How it works...

B: Beer goggle rating.
An: Number of units of alcohol consumed.
∂ = distance from person of interest in metres – from 0.5 to 3 metres.

to 3 metres.

S: Smokiness of the room, graded from 0 (clear) to 10.

L: Lighting of person of interest in candelas per square metre, from 1 (pitch-black) to 150 (bright)

Vo. Snellen visual acuity, or eyesight – 6/6 is normal, 6/12 only just meets driving standard.

ODD: Chris and Billie



PUZZLE: Liv and Roy



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